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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 24 February 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to wage its vicious military campaign against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, causing more death and devastation with each passing day. Since my letter to you of Thursday, 20 February 2003 (A/ES-10/217-S/2003/201), more than 16 Palestinians, including at least six children, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces in a number of attacks carried out in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. On Sunday, the occupying forces attacked the town of Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip, killing Palestinians and destroying properties, including several homes. Israeli tanks, backed by helicopter gunships, invaded the town on Sunday, where the occupying forces killed six Palestinians and seriously wounded several others. It has been reported that the occupying forces even desecrated the corpses of at least two of the Palestinians killed during the attack on Beit Hanoun. Also yesterday in Gaza, the occupying forces killed a 14-year-old Palestinian boy, Mahmoud Mohammed Abu Zaher, in a playground in Khan Younis.

At the same time, the Israeli occupying forces continued to carry out raids and attacks throughout the Nablus and Tulkarem areas over the weekend. In Nablus, which continues to be under round-the-clock curfew, the occupying forces raided many homes, particularly in the Old City, conducting house-to-house searches and abducting and detaining more than 20 Palestinians. Moreover, four Palestinians, including a child and an elderly man, were killed and several homes and shops were destroyed during this assault by the occupying forces.

While the attention of the international community continues to be diverted by other matters on the international agenda, the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate dramatically. The Palestinian death toll continues to climb and the path of destruction continues to widen as the Israeli occupying forces continue relentlessly to attack the civilian

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population and their homes, properties and infrastructure. Furthermore, the occupying forces continue to carry out all means of collective punishments against the Palestinian people, including the ongoing imposition of severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, home demolitions and the abduction and detention of thousands of Palestinians. Indeed, serious violations and grave breaches of international law and international humanitarian law are constantly being committed by the Israeli occupying forces as they carry out the policies of the government of Mr. Ariel Sharon against the Palestinian people. Such crimes and atrocities against the Palestinian people have continued unabated and only intensified with the passage of time, since the onset of this Israeli military campaign in September 2000. In this regard, it seems tragically clear that without concerted and urgent measures by the international community to address this crisis, Israel, the occupying Power, will continue to act with impunity and brutality against the defenseless Palestinian people under its occupation.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 158 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 February 2003 (A/ES-10/217-S/2003/201), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 16 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,179 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Somaia **Barghouti**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the identical letters dated 24 February 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of the martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Friday, 21 February 2003, through Sunday, 23 February 2003)

Friday, 21 February 2003

1. Tarik Mohammed Zaki Abu Rahmeh
2. Musaab Abdallah Al-Sabea
3. Ahmed Subhi Abu Zahra

Saturday, 22 February 2003

1. Ahmed Khalid Abdelraheem Al-Najjar
2. Sami Murtada Halaweh
3. Waleed Majid Al-Masri

Sunday, 23 February 2003

1. Ahmed Eid Afaneh (17 years old)
2. Mahmoud Sarhan Hiweleh
3. Mohammed Ramadan Al-Kahloot (18 years old)
4. Ayman Yussef Abu Shirar
5. Wael Mohammed Al-Gharbawi
6. Yusset Atiyeh Abu Shriah (16 years old)
7. Nasr Samer Nasooh Ja'reh (14 years old)
8. Mahmoud Mohammed Abu Zaher (14 years old)
9. Muaed Mustafa Saleh Salemeh
10. Bara'a Fayez Al-Afifi (16 years old)

* The total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,179 martyrs.